



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the **PATENT APPLICATION** of:

Kevin Tabor

Application No.: 10/001,517

Confirmation No.: 3249

Filed: October 25, 2001

For: AUTOMATED MANUFACTURING
EQUIPMENT AND PROCESS FOR
ASSEMBLY OF ORDERED OPTIC FIBER
ARRAYS

Group: 1731

Examiner: Colaiani, Michael

Our File: OIC-PT010

Date: September 2, 2003

REPLY PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This reply is respectfully submitted in response to the office action, dated July 1, 2003, for the above-identified application in which the Examiner set a one month shortened statutory period for response which expired on August 1, 2003. Accordingly, a one month petition for an extension of time up through September 2, 2003 (September 1st being Labor Day) is respectfully submitted herewith. Entry of the following reply, without prejudice or disclaimer, is respectfully requested.

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are currently pending in this application. The Examiner has required restriction of this application and has grouped the claims as follows: Group I (i.e., claims 1-8), Group II (i.e., claims 9-19), and Group III (i.e., claim 20). Applicant respectfully elects with traverse the claims of Group I (i.e., claims 1-8) for examination.

The MPEP sets forth that “[i]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions.” MPEP § 803. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims of Groups II and III should be examined together with the claims of Group I since a search for the subject matter of the claims of Groups II and III must be made in order to perform a thorough search of the prior art for the subject matter of the claims of Group I.

Applicant respectfully submits that the search and examination of the subject matter of the claims of Groups I, II, and III does not increase the burden on the Examiner relative to only searching and examining the subject matter of the claims of Group I. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider this restriction requirement and together examine the claims of Group I, II, and III.

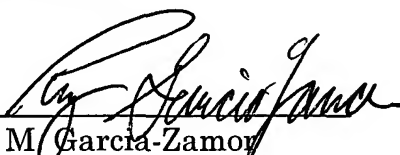
Applicant: Kevin Tabor
Application No.: 10/001,517

If the Examiner believes that any formal matters for this application need to be addressed, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned, by telephone, at the Examiner's convenience.

Prompt examination on the merits of the claims of Groups I, II, and III is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Tabor

By 
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Approved for use through 04/30/2003. OMB 0651-0031

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TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	10/001,517
	Filing Date	October 25, 2001
	First Named Inventor	Kevin Tabor
	Art Unit	1731
	Examiner Name	Colaianne, Michael
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	Attorney Docket Number	OIC-PT010

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)		
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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT	
Firm or Individual name	Ruy M. Garcia-Zamor Reg. No. 44,117
Signature	<i>Ruy Garcia-Zamor</i>
Date	September 2, 2003

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.	
Typed or printed name	Ruy M. Garcia-Zamor
Signature	<i>Ruy Garcia-Zamor</i>
Date	September 2, 2003

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